Irregularities in Food Distribution during Drought Relief Work

2045. SHRI BRAHMA KUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "irregularities in distribution of food" published in the Indian Express dated 23rd June, 2000;

(b) whether voluntary agency has been distributing nutrition supplementary to workers employed in drought relief works;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to check the irregularities.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The primary responsibility for undertaking necessary relief measures in the wake of natural calamities is that of the State Government concerned. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments. Distribution of relief and undertaking relief measures at the ground level are the responsibility of the Government of Gujarat. The press report has been sent to the State Government for appropriate action.

N. .ionl Action Plan for Controlling Natural Calamities in Assam

2046. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any National Action Plan for controlling the floods and natural calamities situation in the country particularly in the State of Assam during the Ninth Plan;

(b) whether Government assessed the floods situation in Assam during the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(c) if so, the full details thereof; and

(d) the details of financial assistance given to the State and utilized so far for the same during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF